

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A business application generation system for automatically generating a business software application, comprising:
a central processing unit;
a repository containing a set of meta data;
a generation tool comprising a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element and said second tool being a meta data independent generating element; and

input/output means for treating said meta data and for invoking said generation tool, said input/output means being a workbench enabling editing of said meta data, wherein:

said workbench enables an invocation of said generation tool by initiating an import of said set of meta data into said passer element,

said passer element handles, interprets, and processes said set of meta data for input to said generating element,

said generating element generates, on the basis of said set of meta data input, program code for said business process application,

said set of meta data containing structured business process application information comprising information on functions operating on business data, and

said generation tool retrieving data from said repository and, on the basis of said retrieved repository data, generating a customized business process application.

2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said set of meta data consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.
4. (Original) The system according to claim 3, wherein said meta data entities contain information on the identification of an application to be generated, on object types and on object structures.
5. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said object types contain information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process.
6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said business process is a billing process.
7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said business process is a bonus payment process.

8. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said business process is a commission payment process.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said workbench enables at least one of viewing, creating, adding, deleting, changing, and inheriting said repository meta data.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1 [[11]], wherein said generating element further generates data objects for said business process application.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1 [[11]], wherein said generating element further generates a data base for said business process application.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for generating a business software application, comprising:

providing a set of meta data containing information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process data;

customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said generation tool comprising a meta

data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element for generating a customized business software application; and

importing said set of meta data comprising information on functions into said passer element of said generation tool ~~comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element for generating a customized business software application;~~

handling, interpreting, and processing said set of meta data imported into said generation tool in said meta data dependent passer element; and

inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element into said generating element.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, further comprising ~~the steps of inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element into said generating element, and~~ generating program code for said business process application on the basis of said data input.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out a method for generating a business software application, the method comprising:

customizing a set of meta data comprising information on functions via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said

generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element;

importing said set of meta data into said passer element of said generation tool,
~~said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element;~~ and

on the basis of said set of meta data, processing meta data in said passer element, inputting said processed meta data in said generating element and generating a customized business software application.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A business application generation system for automatically adapting a business software application, comprising:

a central processing unit;

a repository containing a set of meta data;

a generation tool comprising a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element and said second tool being a meta data independent generating element; and

input/output means for treating said meta data and for invoking said generation tool, said input/output means being a workbench enabling editing of said meta data, wherein:

said workbench enables an invocation of said generation tool by initiating an import of said set of meta data into said passer element,

said passer element handles, interprets, and processes said set of meta data for input to said generating element,

said generating element generates, on the basis of said meta data input, program code for said business process application, and

said set of meta data containing structured business process application information comprising information on functions operating on business data, and said generation tool retrieving data from said repository and, on the basis of said retrieved repository data, generating a customized adapted version of an existing business process application.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 20, wherein said set of meta data consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 22, wherein said meta data entities contain information on the identification of an application to be generated, on object types and on object structures.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein said object types contain information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 20, wherein said business process is a billing process.

26. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 20, wherein said business process is a bonus payment process.

27. (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 20, wherein said business process is a commission payment process.

28. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 20, wherein said workbench enables at least one of viewing, creating, adding, deleting, changing, and inheriting said repository meta data.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 20, wherein said ~~passer element handles, interprets, and processes said set of meta data for input to said generating element,~~ said generating element generating generates, on the basis of said data input, program code for said business process application.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein said generating element further generates data objects for said business process application.

32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein said generating element further generates a data base for said business process application.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for generating an adapted business software application, comprising:

providing a set of meta data containing information on the business process data to be processed by the adapted application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process data;

customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element for generating a customized adapted business software application; and

importing said set of meta data comprising information on functions into said passer element of said generation tool ~~comprising a meta data dependent passer-element and a meta data independent generating element for generating a customized adapted business software application;~~

handling, interpreting, and processing said set of meta data imported into said generation tool in said passer element; and

inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element into said generating element.

34-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 33 ~~[[35]]~~, further comprising the ~~steps of inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element into said generating element, and~~ step of generating program code for said business process application on the basis of said data input.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out a method for generating an adapted business software application, the method comprising:

customizing a set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element;

importing said set of meta data into said meta data dependent passer element of said generation tool, ~~said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element;~~ and

on the basis of said set of meta data, processing meta data in said passer element, inputting said processed meta data in said generating element and generating a customized adapted business software application.

38. (Cancelled)